

767. *ALAUDA GULGULA*.

A. cælix, Swinhoe, comes nearer, I find, to *A. malabarica* (no. 768) than to this, and has a pointed though scarcely elongated crest, while that of *A. gulgula* is the same as in *A. arvensis*.

769. *GALERITA CRISTATA*.

In my Catalogue of the Birds in the Asiatic Society's Museum at Calcutta (1849), I placed *G. chendoola* as a different species from *G. cristata*. This arose from having received an Algerian specimen as *G. cristata*, which proves to be *G. macro-rhyncha*, Tristram (Ibis, 1859, p. 57); *G. randoni*, Loche (Rev. Zool. 1860, p. 150, pl. xi. fig. 2).

GALERITA BOYSI, nobis, proves to be a good species. Examples from Lahore have the wing 3·5 in., and the rest in proportion; otherwise resembling *G. cristata*.

[To be continued.]

II.—*Egypt Revisited*. By E. CAVENDISH TAYLOR, M.A., F.Z.S.

I ARRIVED at Alexandria, in Egypt, on the morning of December 15th, 1863, just ten years and one month after my first visit to that country, some ornithological notes on which were published in the first volume of 'The Ibis,' that for 1859. I found Alexandria very much increased, improved, and Europeanized during the decade that had elapsed since I had last seen it; but European influences seemed to have affected the climate also, for it rained the greater part of the time I stayed there, and the streets were filled with deep, black mud, such as I have never seen in any other town except Tunis. From Alexandria I went to Cairo by railway in seven hours. On my first visit, before the railway existed, the same journey took me, by boat, seven days. Cairo has resisted European innovations, and did not seem to me in the least changed. During the six weeks that I remained there, I devoted myself to looking up the ornithology of the immediate neighbourhood, and I got a good many birds worth having, especially three specimens of *Falco*

lanarius and several species of *Saxicolæ*. I also made an excursion to Suez, and stayed there three or four days. Suez, where there are no trees, or bushes, but desert only, is decidedly the most non-aviferous place I ever was in: even the Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*), which swarms all over the rest of Egypt, was conspicuous by his absence; and I saw no Sparrows, nor, indeed, any small passerine bird, except the White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*). However, the Raven of Egypt (*Corvus umbrinus*), notwithstanding the absence of trees, was not uncommon, and I shot a fine specimen. From Suez I returned to Cairo, and remained there till January 29th, 1864, when, in company with two other gentlemen, who were going up the Nile to collect birds, I took a boat, and started on the voyage up the river to the First Cataract at Assouan. The voyage thither lasted a month, and the return about the same time, so that I was in all two months on the Nile. I returned to Cairo at the end of March, and after staying there a few days went by railway to Mansoura, in the Delta, where I took a small boat, and went down the Eastern branch of the Nile to Damietta, where I remained some days collecting birds. Thence I returned to Alexandria, and departed for Smyrna on the 13th of April, having spent four months in Egypt.

The following is a list of the birds shot by myself, or members of my party, or otherwise fully identified by myself during my two visits to Egypt. The remarks refer to my observations on my second visit, except where the contrary is stated. My experience of Egypt extends only from the middle of November to the middle of April, and I never ascended the Nile beyond the First Cataract. Had I remained in the country a month later, I have no doubt but I should have added considerably to my list; for of course many species of birds go to Egypt to breed which are not found there in the winter, or even as early as the middle of April. I found the *Picidæ* and *Paridæ* totally unrepresented in the country. My experience does not agree with that of Dr. Adams (*Ibis*, 1864, pp. 3, 4) that the Date-Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) "is by no means a fitting resort for birds," and that you may wander for hours among groves of those trees, "and, except near the villages, not meet with a bird of any description;" for

I, on the contrary, always considered a grove of palm-trees a particularly good place to look for birds, and there is no tree in which I more often found the nest of the Egyptian Kite and Hooded Crow; and as to *Corvus umbrinus* I never saw its nest in any other sort of tree.

1. *VULTUR MONACHUS*, L. Cinereous Vulture.

On my second trip up the Nile I occasionally saw a solitary individual of this species among a flock of Griffons (*Gyps fulvus*). With a good glass it was easily identified when in repose, by its dark-coloured plumage and very differently shaped head.

2. *GYPF FULVUS* (Gmelin). Griffon-Vulture.

I found this Vulture very abundant on my second visit to Egypt, much more so indeed than on my first, owing, I suspect, to the cattle murrain, which was then raging, and which, though a dreadful visitation for the cattle and their owners, was a fine time for the Vultures. I suppose that this species breeds in Egypt, but I never detected it in the act.

3. *NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS* (L.). Egyptian Vulture.

I have nothing to add to my former remarks about this bird, which I found as abundant as ever on my return to Egypt.

4. *AQUILA MOGILNIK* (S. Gmelin). Imperial Eagle.

The specimen that I shot on my first visit was in the pale plumage of the second or third year. I did not see this species alive on my second visit, but saw the skins of two adult specimens on board a boat I visited. I never saw the Golden Eagle (*A. chrysaetus*) or the Tawny Eagle (*A. naevioides*) in Egypt.

5. *AQUILA NÆVIA* (Gmelin). Spotted Eagle.

Egypt seems to be the favourite winter quarters of this species; it is then so plentiful that I have seen as many as twenty all together in a grove of palm-trees. I do not know whether any individuals remain to breed, but I think probably not. They showed no signs of pairing as late as the end of March. This is an eminently arboreal Eagle, and is seldom seen among rocks. Reptiles and carrion are its usual food. The name *Spotted* Eagle is applicable only to the immature bird. With the exception perhaps of *Circæetus gallicus*, this species is much

tamer and more easily approached than any other large raptorial bird in Egypt.

6. *AQUILA PENNATA* (Gmelin). Booted Eagle.

This pretty little Eagle, which is by no means common in Egypt, is subject to considerable variation in colour; for a specimen shot by one of our party, which showed no sign of immaturity, was of a uniform dark brown.

7. *PANDION HALIETUS* (L.). Osprey.

This cosmopolitan bird is naturally not absent from the avifauna of Egypt; I often saw it, but never succeeded in shooting a specimen, as it is very shy and wary.

8. *CIRCAETUS GALLICUS* (Gmelin). Short-toed Eagle.

Not by any means abundant. I shot a very fine adult specimen among some rocks not far above Cairo. The legs and feet are dirty white, and not yellow.

9. *BUTEO FEROX* (S. Gmelin). Long-legged Buzzard.

This very fine, handsome Buzzard is pretty common, and generally distributed throughout the country, where I have no doubt it breeds. Specimens from Egypt seem to me to be larger, more rufous in colour, and with the tail-feathers of a brighter red than those I have seen from Syria and Asia Minor. I once saw a very fine example, with a splendid red tail, flying along with a large bird in its claws; on being fired at, it dropped its prey, which we secured and found to be a Shoveller-Duck, half killed.

10. *BUTEO VULGARIS*, Bechstein. Common Buzzard.

On several occasions I saw this species during my second visit. It seems to prefer thick groves to the more open country.

11. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*, L. Peregrine Falcon.

The Peregrine is not common in Egypt; but I occasionally saw it, sometimes in pairs, sometimes singly. One of our party shot an old female, decidedly the largest example of the species I ever saw.

12. *FALCO BARBARUS*, L. Barbary Falcon.

I saw a specimen of this Falcon at Cairo in January 1864, in the possession of a gentleman who had shot it the day before

near Sakkara. I never met with this species in Egypt on any other occasion.

13. *FALCO SACER*, Gmelin. Saker Falcon.

I should say that this very handsome Falcon is rare in Egypt; for, with the exception of a fine female obtained near Girgeh on my first visit, I never saw it either alive or dead; nor did I ever hear of any one else having seen it in Egypt. The legs and feet of the adult are pale yellow, and not blue as they are sometimes represented.

14. *FALCO LANARIUS*, L. Lanner Falcon.

Decidedly the most abundant of the large Falcons in Egypt, where it breeds and is resident, I believe, all the year round. In the month of January 1864, I shot three specimens within a short walk of Cairo.

15. *FALCO ÆSALON*, L. Merlin.

Common up to the end of March, but I do not know whether it remains to breed. I noticed the same numerical preponderance of male birds as on my first visit, but I did shoot one very fine adult female.

16. *TINNUNCULUS ALAUDARIUS*, G. R. Gray. Kestrel.

Swarms all over the country. I sometimes shot one in hopes it might be the Lesser Kestrel, which it never was.

17. *TINNUNCULUS CENCHRIS* (Frisch). Lesser Kestrel.

With the exception of one male, killed about the end of March, I never saw this species in Egypt; but I believe it arrives in great numbers later in the spring, and breeds in the country.

18. *ACCIPITER NISUS* (L.). Sparrow-Hawk.

In Egypt, where this bird is not persecuted as it is in England, it is comparatively tame and familiar; and I have often seen it in the city of Cairo, flying about, and perching on the house-tops on the look-out for Sparrows or any other small birds that might come within its reach. It is abundant all the way from Cairo to Assouan, especially frequenting thick groves of acacia. Although generally in pairs, I did not succeed in finding a nest up to the end of March. I shot some old females of

unusually large size ; two that I skinned measured fully sixteen inches in length each.

19. *ELANUS CÆRULEUS* (Desfontaines). Black-winged Kite.

Very abundant all the way from Cairo to Assouan, and extremely tame and easy to shoot. Although the birds were paired all through the month of March, I am sorry to say that I did not succeed in finding a nest. I suspect that this species is rather a late breeder. I think that its food consists principally of lizards, small mammals, insects, and occasionally small birds.

20. *MILVUS ÆGYPTIUS* (Gmelin). Egyptian Kite.

I certainly cannot agree with Dr. Adams, or Mr. S. Allen (Ibis, 1864, pp. 9 and 234) as to the relative abundance of this species and *M. migrans* in Egypt ; for I can most positively assert that I have never once seen an adult individual of the latter in that country. I have often shot Kites in the immediate neighbourhood of Cairo, and they have always proved, if adult, to be *M. ægyptius* ; as to immature individuals, I can never feel certain to which species they may belong. Our party on the Nile shot a vast number of Kites, all along the Nile valley from Cairo to Assouan, without once procuring an adult specimen of *M. migrans*. I admit that we sometimes shot young Kites that differed from the usual immature plumage of *M. ægyptius* in being blacker, spotted, and mottled with white, like an immature *Aquila nœvia*. These *may* have been immature individuals of *M. migrans* ; but an adult of that species I never once saw in Egypt. I may mention that there are now in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London three Kites that were taken from the nest by one of our party, and reared on board our boat ; these birds, which to the best of my recollection were from different nests, have all three turned out to be *M. ægyptius*. These birds were breeding in great numbers in February and March ; I took a great many eggs, of which several were quite white, without any spots. In one nest I found the dried-up carcasses of two rats, which formed part of its lining. These Kites feed freely on carrion ; but I never saw them attempt to take young Pigeons or Chickens, or any other living prey.

21. *CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS* (L.). Marsh-Harrier.

Egypt is a fine country for Harriers, and I have obtained there all four of the European species, of which this is much the most common, and is extremely abundant all along the Nile valley. We killed examples in all stages of plumage, including several with the wings and tail quite pale grey. This species is much less addicted to perching on trees than the two following ones. I believe it is generally known that it breeds in the dark brown stage of plumage.

22. *CIRCUS CYANEUS* (L.). Hen-Harrier.

Not by any means a common species. Near Manfaloot I found a large orange-grove surrounded by a thick band of gum-acacia trees, which seemed a regular colony of Harriers; for one of our party and myself shot there, in little more than an hour, a male and two females of this species, and a male and three females of *Circus swainsoni*, all adults. This was in the month of March.

23. *CIRCUS SWAINSONI*, A. Smith. Pale Harrier.

Decidedly more common than *C. cyaneus*, and much given to perching on low thick trees. The females of these two species are not very easy to distinguish, unless shot in company with the males.

24. *CIRCUS CINERACEUS* (Montagu). Montagu's Harrier.

I must confess that I never saw an adult male of this species in Egypt; but we shot a few immature specimens, which, from their small size and the uniform colouring of their under parts, I can refer to no other species.

25. *BUBO ASCALAPHUS*, Savigny. Egyptian Eagle-Owl.

We shot a specimen of this fine bird in February on our way up the Nile. I afterwards saw one near the Pyramids of Ghizeh early in April, but did not succeed in shooting it. On the same day I got two eggs of this species from an Arab who had taken them a few days previously in the Pyramid of Aboroash, about five miles north of Ghizeh; he had caught the old bird on the nest, and I saw its mangled remains.

26. *ASIO OTUS* (L.). Long-eared Owl.

We shot two or three pairs of this Owl. They were always

found sitting close together, in the thickest part of a dense grove of gum-acacia trees.

27. *ASIO BRACHYOTUS* (L.). Short-eared Owl.

One specimen of this widely distributed species was shot in March, on our way down the Nile.

28. *STRIX FLAMMEA*, L. Barn-Owl.

Occasionally seen among the ruined temples, and sometimes shot. I found a nest of this Owl, containing one egg, in one of the Pyramids of Ghizeh.

29. *ATHENE PERSICA* (Vieillot). Southern Little Owl.

Very abundant, and equally at home in town and country. Breeds in March. Flies freely and well in broad day-light. Differs very little from the *A. noctua* of Europe.

30. *JYNX TORQUILLA*, L. Wryneck.

Near Thebes, one day in the month of March, I saw a small bird climbing over some rocks. I shot it, and it turned out to be a Wryneck. A month later I shot another near Damietta.

31. *CUCULUS CANORUS*, L. Common Cuckoo.

One specimen was shot towards the end of March, not far from Cairo. Not seen on any other occasion.

32. *OXYLOPHUS GLANDARIUS* (L.). Great Spotted Cuckoo.

Very abundant, and resident through the winter. Lays its eggs in the nests of *Corvus cornix*. The first eggs of this bird that I found, I took on February 26th, from a nest that contained two eggs of the Cuckoo, and five of its rightful proprietor, the Crow. The eggs of this Cuckoo that I took in Egypt are rather smaller than those taken in Spain by Lord Lilford. I believe that in Egypt it never lays its eggs in the nest of any other bird than *Corvus cornix*.

33. *CENTROPUS ÆGYPTIUS* (Gmelin). Egyptian Coucal.

On my first visit to Egypt I shot a specimen of this bird, near Atfeh, the place where the Mahmoudieh canal joins the Nile. I have the specimen still in my possession, but I believe Egyptian examples are scarce in collections.

34. *MEROPS VIRIDIS*, L. Green Bee-eater.

Very abundant, and resident throughout the winter, which

the two other species of Bee-eaters are not. I do not know when this bird begins to lay; it had not done so by the beginning of April.

35. *MEROPS PERSICUS*, Pallas. Blue-cheeked Bee-eater.

I shot a pair of these birds at Benisouef, on March 26th, which was the first time I saw the species. From that time they became plentiful. I found them tame, and much given to perching on telegraph-wires.

36. *MEROPS APIASTER*, L. European Bee-eater.

I did not see this species until April; so I conclude it arrived later than *M. persicus*. I found it less abundant than that species, and much wilder and less easy to shoot.

37. *ALCEDO ISPIDA*, L. Kingfisher.

By no means a common bird. I saw it more frequently near Cairo than anywhere else.

38. *CERYLE RUDIS* (L.). Black-and-white Kingfisher.

Very abundant. I found it breeding in April, but saw no signs of its doing so even in February, though Dr. Adams says that "it breeds early in December" (Ibis, 1864, p. 15). I agree with that gentleman that the male has a double band of black across the breast, the female a single one.

39. *UPUPE EOPS*, L. Hoopoe.

Very common throughout the winter. Breeds in March, when we procured both eggs and young in Upper Egypt.

40. *CAPRIMULGUS ISABELLINUS*, Temminck. Cream-coloured Nightjar.

Specimens procured on my first visit.

41. *CYPSELUS APUS* (L.). Common Swift.

Resident through the winter, and abundant in Upper Egypt. The Swifts in Egypt differ in colour from any that I have seen in Europe; they are much paler, and more grey than black; still I believe they are not considered specifically distinct.

42. *HIRUNDO RIOCOURII*, Audouin; *H. cahirica*, Licht. Cairene Swallow.

Resident throughout the winter, and very abundant from Cairo

to Kench, above which it is less numerous. I fully agree with Mr. S. Allen (Ibis, 1864, p. 237), that the fact of its being resident throughout the winter, while *H. rustica* only arrives in the spring, is a strong argument in favour of their being specifically distinct; besides which, the colour of the belly is so different in the two birds (that of *H. cahirica* being deep chestnut) that I really cannot entertain the smallest doubt that the subject of the present note is a good species.

43. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*, L. Common Swallow.

Began to appear about March 25th, and was common at Cairo and Damietta in April.

44. *COTYLE RUPESTRIS* (Scopoli). Crag-Martin.

Abundant in all rocky parts of Egypt. I saw several nests and procured some eggs in March; both nest and eggs much resemble those of *Hirundo rustica*. This species is resident throughout the winter.

45. *COTYLE RIPARIA* (L.). Sand-Martin.

Large flocks of this species arrived in Upper Egypt early in March, and immediately set to work to make holes in the sandy banks of the Nile. I never saw *Hirundo rufula* in Egypt, but I found it pretty common near Smyrna in April.

46. *MUSCICAPA COLLARIS*, Bechstein. Collared Fly-catcher.

Common at Damietta in April, when it had probably just arrived.

47. *LANIUS DEALBATUS*, De Filippi (Rev. Zool. 1853, p. 289). Bleached Shrike.

Procured in Upper Egypt in the winter, where, however, it is not common. I never heard of its occurrence in the Delta. It hardly differs from *L. excubitor*, but has the grey of the upper parts rather paler in tint, and the white of the under parts purer. It is a remarkable fact in the distribution of these Shrikes, that in the north and centre of Europe there is a light-coloured species (*L. excubitor*), in the south of Europe and North Africa, a dark-coloured species (*L. meridionalis*), while the present form is found in the Sahara, and Upper Egypt, to the south of the regions inhabited by *L. meridionalis*.

48. *LANIUS AURICULATUS*, P. L. S. Müller ; *L. rufus*, Temm.
Woodchat.

Occasionally shot in March, but not common.

49. *LANIUS NUBICUS*, Lichtenstein ; *L. personatus*, Temm.
Masked Shrike.

I first saw this species in Upper Egypt about the end of February, when it had probably just arrived. It afterward became very abundant, and was generally in pairs, but I do not think it had begun to breed by the end of March. The species is accurately figured by Dr. Bree (*Birds of Europe*, i. p. 161).

At Smyrna and Constantinople, whither I went on leaving Egypt, I found none of the three above-named Shrikes, but *Lanius minor* and *L. collurio* instead.

50. *TURDUS MUSICUS*, L. Song-Thrush.

Shot two or three times in February.

51. *PETROCINCLA CYANA* (L.). Blue Rock-Thrush.

Tolerably common all through the winter, especially frequenting rocks and ruins.

52. *PETROCINCLA SAXATILIS* (L.). Rock-Thrush.

I suspect that this species is a spring visitant ; for I did not meet with it till about the middle of March, when I saw a fine male in the temple of Karnak. I afterwards found it common at Damietta in the month of April.

53. *SAXICOLA LEUCOCEPHALA* (A. E. Brehm). Whiteheaded Chat.

Egypt is a fine country for Chats ; and while there I devoted a good deal of attention to that family of birds, and obtained a good many species. I must say that I see no good reason for separating the genus *Dromolæa* from the old-established one of *Saxicola*. I think it impossible to fix on a line of demarcation as to what constitutes a *Dromolæa* *. Is it an absence of sexual difference ? If so, *Dromolæa monacha* should be excluded from that genus, and *Saxicola lugens* and *Saxicola isabellina* should be admitted into it. Is it a well-contrasted plumage of black

* [The characters of *Dromolæa*, as given by Dr. Cabanis (*Mus. Hein.* i. p. 9, note) are structural.—ED.]

and white? If so, *Saxicola lugens* may claim to be a *Dromolæa*. Is it superiority in size? If so, then may *Saxicola isabellina*, which is fully as large as any of the family. I therefore prefer to retain the old genus *Saxicola* for all the true Chats. The beautiful Whiteheaded Chat is found all over Egypt, wherever the rocks, in which it delights, are to be found. I shot a pair in the desert about a mile south of Cairo, in the month of January. It is particularly abundant among the granite rocks about Assouan and the First Cataract, and is always to be seen among rocks in the desert, and never on cultivated land. The plumage of this species is of the most beautiful jet-black, and not brownish-black like *Saxicola leucura*, Gm., which I never saw in Egypt. I consider the white crown to be a mark of advanced age.

54. *SAXICOLA LEUCOPYGIA* (A. E. Brehm). White-rumped Chat.

I am decidedly of opinion that this is no good species at all*, but merely the preceding one at a less advanced age. The following are my reasons:—With the exception of the colour of the crown of the head, there is absolutely no difference whatever between the birds. The white-headed birds have often a few black feathers interspersed among the white feathers of the crown. The black-headed birds have *generally* a few white feathers similarly interspersed. And, more than all, I have sometimes seen a white-headed bird and a black-headed bird paired together. I believe that the white head is not acquired till an advanced age, and that the bird breeds before it does acquire it. Sex has nothing to do with the colour of the head.

55. *SAXICOLA MONACHA*, Rüppell.

A rare species in Egypt. I possess two specimens, male and female, procured there in January. It is the female of this species that is figured by Rüppell (*Atl. tab. 34, fig. a*) as *Saxicola pallida*. No wonder, then, that Dr. Adams's specimens (Ibis, 1864, p. 19) of *Saxicola pallida* were both females! It would be rather difficult to find a male *S. pallida*. I may state that Dr. Selater fully agrees with me in what I have stated about the subject of Rüppell's plate.

* [Cf. Tristram in P. Z. S. 1864, p. 441.—Ed.]

56. *SAXICOLA LUGENS*, Lichtenstein. Mourning Chat.

This is the most abundant of all the Chats near Cairo in the winter; I procured several there in January, quite close to the city. It becomes less numerous south of Siout. This species affects rocks and deserts, avoiding cultivation. There is no difference in plumage between the sexes, and they are nearly always seen in pairs.

57. *SAXICOLA ISABELLINA*, Rüppell, Atl. t. 34. fig. *b*; *S. saltator*, Ménétr. Ménétriés's Wheatear.

This large, stout species is resident throughout the winter, and abundant all the way from Cairo to near Assouan. It frequents the patches of short burnt-up grass at the edge of the desert. The sexes are alike in plumage. This species is figured by Dr. Bree (Birds of Europe, ii. p. 136).

58. *SAXICOLA HOMOCHROA*, Tristram, Ibis, 1859, p. 59.

In the month of January I came upon a pair of these small Chats in the desert near Cairo, and shot one of them. I never saw the species on any other occasion; so I suppose it is rare. It is very like *S. isabellina* in miniature.

59. *SAXICOLA DESERTI*, Rüppell. Desert-Chat.

Resident through the winter, frequenting the edge of the desert, like *S. isabellina*. Less common near Cairo than further south. The sexes are alike in plumage, which in distribution of colour reminds one of *S. stapazina*. The black feathers of the throat are tipped with grey in the beginning of February, but not at the end of March.

60. *SAXICOLA*, *sp. indet.*

Among a small collection of bird-skins, on board a boat that I visited on the Nile in March, I saw a Chat that at once struck me as new. A few days afterwards I shot an immature example of evidently the same species, which I am convinced is new to science. As I have only an immature specimen I refrain from attempting a diagnosis. The species very closely resembles *S. philothamna*, Tristram (Ibis, 1859, pp. 58 and 299, pl. ix.), but differs from it in having the tail-feathers *white*, broadly tipped

with black, the rump and crissum bright chestnut-red. I should suggest that *S. erythropygia* would be a good name for the bird *.

61. *SAXICOLA OENANTHE* (L.). Common Wheatear.

First seen near Thebes in the month of March. Egyptian specimens are rather brighter in colour than is usual in Europe. This and the two following species are spring visitants to Egypt.

62. *SAXICOLA XANTHOMELENA*, Hemprich and Ehrenberg.

This species, which may perhaps be considered a local variety of *S. stapazina*, L., differs from that bird in the black of the throat extending much further on the breast (in which respect it resembles *S. eurymelena*, Hempr. & Ehr., of Syria). The head and back are also less rufous, and much paler in colour than in specimens of *S. stapazina* from Europe. This Chat arrives in Upper Egypt about the beginning of March, and is common at Thebes, and indeed all through the country. It is more given to perch on shrubs and low trees than are the other Chats.

63. *SAXICOLA ALBICOLLIS*, Vieillot; *S. aurita*, Temm. Eared Chat.

Arrives at the same time as the last species, but is rather less abundant. Specimens from Egypt are paler in colour than those from Europe, and are no doubt the *S. aurita*, var. *libyca*, Hempr. & Ehr.

64. *PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA* (L.). Stone-Chat.

Resident throughout the winter, and common in the neighbourhood of Cairo and elsewhere.

65. *PRATINCOLA RUBETRA* (L.). Whin-Chat.

Seen near Damietta in April.

66. *RUTICILLA TITHYS* (Scopoli). Black Redstart.

Resident in small numbers throughout the winter; frequents ruined buildings.

67. *RUTICILLA PHOENICURA* (L.). Common Redstart.

Arrives in March; seen but seldom.

* [We have not seen Mr. Taylor's specimen; but from the above statement it seems not impossible that it may be the *Dromolæa chrysopygia* of De Filippi (Viagg. Pers. p. 347); but cf. *infra* p. 93.—ED.]

68. *CYANECULA SUECICA* (L.). Bluethroat.

The Egyptian race is that with the breast-spot *red*, as in the Scandinavian form, the type of Linnæus's *Motacilla suecica*. Common about Cairo in January.

69. *ERYTHACUS RUBECULA* (L.). Red-breast.

Occasionally seen, and once shot near Cairo in January.

70. *PHILOMELA LUSCINIA* (L.). Nightingale.

Occasionally shot, but by no means common.

71. *AEDON GALACTODES* (Temminck). Rufous Warbler.

This bird is not by any means a "Sedge-Warbler" in its habits, as it principally frequents thickets of low brush-wood near the edge of the desert. In such localities I found it abundant near the end of March.

72. *SYLVIA CINEREA*, Latham. Common Whitethroat.73. *SYLVIA CURRUCA* (Gmelin). Lesser Whitethroat.

Both these species were occasionally shot on the Nile in March.

74. *SYLVIA CAPISTRATA*, Rüppell. Rüppell's Warbler.*

Not at all uncommon in Upper Egypt, among low bushes in the month of March.

75. *PYROPHTHALMA MELANOCEPHALA* (Gmelin). Sardinian Warbler.

Perhaps the most abundant of the Warblers in March. This species, as it creeps among thick herbage and low bushes, always reminds me very much of a Marsh Titmouse (*Parus palustris*). The naked skin round the eye is bright red.

76. *PHYLLOPNEUSTE TROCHILUS* (L.). Willow-Wren.77. *PHYLLOPNEUSTE RUFA* (Latham). Chiff-Chaff.

Both these species were constantly seen throughout the winter.

* [The style of coloration in this species, taken together with the very remarkable appearance of its egg, a characteristic among the *Sylviidæ* of some weight, would almost seem to justify its separation from the group of Warblers in which it is usually placed. But this does not seem to have been done hitherto.—ED.]

78. *PHYLLOPNEUSTE SYLVICOLA* (Latham). Wood-Wren.
Seen at Damietta in April.

79. *PSEUDOLUSCINIA LUSCINIODES* (Savi). Savi's Warbler.
Not uncommon among reeds and other aquatic plants.

80. *CALAMODYTA STENTORIA* (Hempr. et Ehr.) ; Ibis, 1864,
pl. i.

I found this rare bird near Damietta early in April, in the same lake where it had previously been discovered by Mr. S. Allen. Although it was abundant there, I only got two specimens.

81. *CISTICOLA SCHÆNICOLA*, Bonaparte. Fantail Warbler.

This, the smallest of Egyptian birds, is abundant, and generally to be seen flying, with a peculiarly jerking flight, over wheat-fields, incessantly uttering a sharp cry, remarkably loud for the size of the bird.

82. *SUYA GRACILIS* (Rüppell), Atl. t. 2. fig. b.

This pretty little bird is resident through the winter, and common throughout Egypt, wherever there are bushes. I found it abundant near Cairo in January.

83. *MOTACILLA ALBA*, L. White Wagtail.

Perhaps the commonest bird in the country, and the only small bird I saw at Suez.

84. *MOTACILLA LUGUBRIS*, Temminck ; Gould, B. Eur. ii. pl. 112. "*M. vidua* Sund.," Tristram, Ibis, 1866, p. 291.

I saw two or three pairs of this very distinct and well-marked species on the banks of the Nile, at Assouan, but did not observe it elsewhere.

85. *MOTACILLA SULPHUREA*, Bechstein. Grey Wagtail.

Seen at Cairo in January.

86. *BUDYTES FLAVUS* (L.), var. *cinereo-capillus*, Savi. Grey-headed Wagtail.

Abundant all along the Nile in February and March.

87. *ANTHUS RUFOGULARIS*, Brehm. Red-throated Pipit.

Common in suitable localities from December to April. I never saw the common Meadow-Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*).

88. *ANTHUS ARBOREUS*, Bechstein. Tree-Pipit.

One specimen shot.

89. *ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS*, Bechstein. Tawny Pipit.

Appeared in Upper Egypt in March, and at once became abundant.

90. *CERTHILAUDA DESERTORUM* (Stanley). Bifasciated Lark.

Occasionally procured near the edge of the desert.

91. *GALERITA CRISTATA* (L.). Crested Lark.

Extremely abundant. Eggs procured in Upper Egypt early in March, are smaller than those of the common Sky-Lark (*Alauda arvensis*), though the bird is larger.

92. *CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA*, Leisler. Short-toed Lark.

Not seen before March; so I suspect it is a spring-visitant. Generally in small flocks.

93. *CALANDRELLA REBOUDIA*, Tristram, Ibis, 1859, p. 58. Reboud's Lark.

A small *desert*-form of the preceding species, from which it differs in being resident through the winter. I procured specimens near Cairo, in the month of January, out of a small flock that I found in the desert.

94. *AMMOMANES ISABELLINA* (Temminck). Desert-Lark.

I found this beautiful Sand-Lark abundant near Cairo in the month of January. I have shot it close to the walls of the city. Near Assouan it seems to be replaced by the following species.

95. *AMMOMANES FRATERCULUS*, Tristram, P. Z. S., 1864, p. 434. Tristram's Lark.

Seen only in the neighbourhood of Assouan, where it was common, and in pairs at the beginning of March.

96. *EMBERIZA HORTULANA*, L. Ortolan.

I shot an individual of this species near Benisouef late in March. This was the only time that I ever saw any species of the genus in Egypt.

97. *PASSER DOMESTICUS* (L.). Common Sparrow.

In my former list of Egyptian birds (Ibis, 1859, p. 48), I

included *Passer cisalpinus* by mistake for this species. I have now great pleasure in correcting that error. *P. domesticus* is very abundant all along the Nile valley, and is the only Sparrow that I have seen in the city of Cairo, where it swarms, and is remarkably tame and pert. In the month of March I noticed it breeding in Upper Egypt in holes in the mud-banks of the Nile.

98. *PASSER SALICICOLA*, Vieillot. Spanish Sparrow.

More abundant even than the last species, and usually in larger flocks. I consider "Spanish" a very bad epithet for this species; for I never once saw it during a three months' tour in Spain, where *P. domesticus* was the only Sparrow I found. In Algeria and Tunis this is the Sparrow of the country; and indeed I saw no other there. All over Italy and Sicily *P. cisalpinus* is certainly the most common, and, indeed, the only species I ever saw; nor did I ever meet with *P. cisalpinus* except in those countries. In the South of France, Spain, Smyrna, and Constantinople, *P. domesticus* is the Sparrow of the country. In these remarks on Sparrows I do not include *Passer montanus* or *Petronia stulta*, which are not representative species.

99. *LINOTA CANNABINA* (L.). Common Linnet.

Abundant about Cairo in January.

100. *ERYTHROSPIZA GITHAGINEA*, Lichtenstein. Desert-Bullfinch.

I never saw this pretty bird near Cairo; but it is very common in Upper Egypt, where it is generally to be seen in small flocks towards the edge of the desert. The species is satisfactorily figured by Dr. Bree (B. Eur. iii. p. 81).

101. *STURNUS VULGARIS*, L. Common Starling.

Occasionally seen, and sometimes shot.

102. *CORVUS FRUGILEGUS*, L. Rook.

I saw a small flock of Rooks, about twenty in number, in a grove of Palm trees (*Phœnix dactylifera*) near Ghizeh, January 29th, 1864. I never saw the Rook in Egypt on any other occasion.

103. *CORVUS CORNIX*, L. Hooded Crow.

Very abundant wherever there are trees, and consequently not at Suez, where there are none. Breeds in February and March. When I was trying to stalk a *Buteo ferox*, or any other large raptorial bird, these Crows seemed to take a pleasure in attacking and driving it away just before I got within shot. Indeed they persecute and bully all the large birds in the country, except *Corvus umbrinus*, of which they are afraid. I never saw the Black Crow (*Corvus corone*) in Egypt.

104. *CORVUS UMBRINUS*, Hedenborg. Brown-necked Raven.

This species is intermediate in size between *C. corax* and *C. corone*; but the feathers of the throat are lanceolate, and it is in all respects a true Raven. It is tolerably common throughout Egypt, and is one of the few birds I found at that desolate spot Suez. We did not happen to shoot a Raven on my first visit, and I was then unacquainted with *C. umbrinus*; so that in my former list (Ibis, 1859, p. 49) I included *C. corax*, which I believe is never found in Egypt. Dr. Adams also falls into the same error (Ibis, 1864, p. 22), as subsequently noticed by Mr. Allen (p. 239). This bird makes its nest sometimes in rocks, sometimes in the centre of the crown of a Date-Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), in which position I found a nest early in March, near Assouan, containing four eggs. I took another nest of this species, with five eggs, from one of the pyramids of Ghizeh in April. The eggs are larger than those of *C. cornix*, and more brightly coloured. I once saw a flock of at least a dozen of these Ravens near the pyramids of Dashoor.

105. *COLUMBA SCHIMPERI*, Bonaparte. Schimper's Pigeon.

Flocks of Pigeons, perfectly wild, frequent the precipitous rocks that here and there border the Nile. I have frequently shot examples from them, and have always found them to possess the characteristics of *Columba schimperi*, being decidedly and conspicuously distinguishable from *C. livia* by the absence of the white rump which forms so marked a feature in that species. The Pigeons which, in a semidomesticated state, frequent the Arab towns and villages, evidently claim descent from *C. schimperi*, and not from *C. livia*, as they too are without the

white rump. Indeed I never in Egypt saw a single instance of a Pigeon possessing the white rump characteristic of *C. livia*. I have seen these pigeons perching in numbers on the horizontal fronds of the Date-Palm, but never on any other tree. During my last visit I again noticed their habit of settling on the river, and remaining on the water for a considerable time in the position of swimming.

106. *TURTUR AURITUS*, G. R. Gray. Turtle-Dove.

Not found in Egypt in the winter. First seen at Assouan in the beginning of March; after that, common in Upper Egypt.

107. *TURTUR SENEGALENSIS* (L.). Egyptian Turtle-Dove.

Abundant all through the country, and resident through the winter. It breeds in March; the eggs are very small in proportion to the size of the bird; the nest slight and fragile, usually placed in the thickest part of a Gum-acacia tree. I never saw *Turtur risorius* in Egypt, though it is abundant at Smyrna.

108. *PTEROCLES EXUSTUS*, Temminck. Singed Sand-Grouse.
By far the most abundant species of Sand-Grouse in Egypt.

109. *PTEROCLES SENEGALENSIS*, Latham.

Much less common than *P. exustus*. Both these species are well figured in Mr. Gould's 'Birds of Asia.' I never saw *P. coronatus* in Egypt, and I believe that neither *P. arenarius* nor *P. alchata* ever occur there.

110. *AMMOPERDIX HEYL*. Hey's Sand-Partridge.

One of my companions started a pair of these birds from among some rocks near Assouan and shot the male. I never saw the species on any other occasion.

111. *COTURNIX COMMUNIS*, Bonnaterre. Common Quail.
Common in wheat-fields in February and March.

112. *CURSURIUS GALLICUS*, Gmelin. Cream-coloured Courser.
Occasionally seen in the desert in small flocks, and once shot.

113. *ÆDICNEMUS CREPITANS*, Temminck. Common Thick-knee.

Tolerably abundant, and very good to eat.

114. *CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS*, L. Golden Plover.

Once seen in the market of Alexandria.

115. *ÆGIALITIS CANTIANUS* (Latham). Kentish Plover.

Abundant in the winter, near Cairo, in muddy places.

116. *ÆGIALITIS FLUVIATILIS* (Bechstein). Little Ringed Plover.

Common all through the country, and frequently seen in the Desert, far away from the river, running swiftly along the sand.

117. *ÆGIALITIS PECUARIUS* (Temminck), Pl. Col. 183; Schl. Mus. P.-B., *Cursores*, p. 34.

I once came upon a flock of this rare Plover on the bank of the Nile, near Girgeh, and shot several of them.

118. *PLUVIANUS ÆGYPTIUS* (L.). Black-headed Plover.

This very beautiful bird is abundant all along the Nile above Cairo, wherever the banks of the river are muddy; it avoids rocky ground, and is therefore not so plentiful near Assouan. It was generally in pairs during the month of March; but I know nothing of its nidification. I see no reason to alter my previously expressed opinion (Ibis, 1859, p. 52) that this bird is probably the *Trochilos* of Herodotus. It has, I think, a better claim to that honour than the Spur-winged Plover (*Hoplopterus spinosus*), because it frequents the same localities as the Crocodiles, namely, mud and sand-bands in the middle of the river; whereas the Spur-wing is more generally met with high and dry in the fields, in which it would not be likely to meet with many Crocodiles.

119. *HOPLOPTERUS SPINOSUS* (L.). Spur-winged Plover.

Very common, tame, and noisy.

120. *VANELLUS CRISTATUS* (Meyer). Lapwing.

Not unfrequent in small flocks.

121. *CHÆTUSIA GREGARIA* (Pallas). Social Plover.

A rare species in Egypt. I once saw several in a field near Girgeh, and shot an immature specimen. Figured by Bonaparte (Icon. Faun. Ital.), and also by Dr. Bree (B. Eur. iii. p. 20).

122. *CHLITUSIA LEUCURA*, Lichtenstein. White-tailed Plover.

On my second trip to Egypt I revisited, in the month of March, the same marsh near Thebes where I had previously obtained this rare bird in the month of January; but I was too late; for the marsh was dried up, and the Plovers were gone. In the following winter, a friend of mine visited the same marsh in January, and obtained at least a dozen specimens, all of which I have seen. I never knew of this species being found in Egypt, except in this one marsh between Thebes and Erment. The bird is very well figured in 'The Ibis' for 1865 (pl. x.); but all the specimens that I have seen from Egypt have the tail-feathers entirely white, and not banded with brown as in that plate. This may be a mark of immaturity. Irides *red*.

123. *HEMATOPUS OSTRALLEGUS*, L. Oyster-catcher.

Seen on the shore of the Red Sea near Suez.

124. *HIMANTOPUS CANDIDUS*, Bonnaterré. Black-winged Stilt.

Frequently seen, and occasionally shot.

125. *TOTANUS GLOTTIS* (L.). Greenshank.

Occasionally shot.

126. *TOTANUS STAGNATILIS*, Bechstein. Marsh Sandpiper.

Rather a rare species. Once shot on my first visit, and occasionally seen on my second. In appearance it much resembles the Greenshank in miniature.

127. *TOTANUS OCHROPUS* (L.). Green Sandpiper.

Very common in all suitable localities.

128. *TOTANUS GLAREOLA* (L.). Wood Sandpiper.

Rare. One specimen procured.

129. *TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS* (L.). Common Sandpiper.

Tolerably abundant, but less so than *T. ochropus*.

130. *TRINGA MINUTA*, Leisler. Little Stint.

Occasionally occurs in small flocks.

131. *TRINGA TEMMINCKI*, Leisler. Temminck's Stint.

A few specimens procured.

132. *GALLINAGO SCOLOPACINUS*, Bonaparte. Common Snipe.
Abundant in the winter, but becomes scarce in March.

133. *GALLINAGO GALLINULA* (L.). Jack Snipe.
Almost as common as the preceding species.

134. *RHYNCHÆA BENGALENSIS* (Gmelin). Painted Snipe.
I did not see this species alive on my second visit, but I saw two or three specimens in a small collection of bird-skins on board a boat I visited.

135. *NUMENIUS ARCUATA* (L.). Curlew.
Not uncommon in the winter.

136. *GRUS CINEREA*, Bechstein. Common Crane.
Not uncommon; but shy, and difficult to shoot.

137. *CICONIA ALBA*, Bechstein. White Stork.
I do not know whether this bird breeds in Egypt; but at all events it remains there till the end of March.

138. *CICONIA NIGRA* (L.). Black Stork.
Occasionally seen in the winter.

139. *ARDEA CINEREA*, L. Common Heron.
Common, and generally distributed.

140. *ARDEA PURPUREA*, L. Purple Heron.
Seen on several occasions.

141. *EGRETTA GARZETTA* (L.). Little Egret.
One specimen was shot by our party, but the species is decidedly rare.

142. *BUPHUS COROMANDA* (Boddaert). Buff-backed Heron.
These birds began to assume the elongated buff plumes on the back towards the end of March, about which time, I suppose, they begin to breed.

143. *NYCTICORAX GRISEUS* (L.). Night-Heron.
Occurs occasionally in small flocks, and perches much on trees, especially on Palm-trees.

144. *PLATALEA LEUCORODIA*, L. Common Spoonbill.
Not uncommon in the winter, in flocks.

145. *PHŒNICOPTERUS ROSEUS*, Pallas. Flamingo.
I often saw large flocks of Flamingos in Egypt, but never

succeeded in shooting any. On the lake of Tunis they are more abundant, and less wild than in Egypt.

146. *FULICA ATRA*, L. Common Coot.

One individual was shot near Assouan.

147. *ANSER ALBIFRONS* (Gmelin). White-fronted Goose.

Abundant on the Nile, in large flocks.

148. *CHENALOPEX ÆGYPTIACUS* (L.). Egyptian Goose.

In the month of March these Geese were generally in pairs.

They are abundant, but rather wild.

149. *TADORNA RUTILA* (Pallas). Ruddy Sheldrake.

One individual of this species was shot by our party on my first visit, but I never met with it on my second.

150. *SPATULA CLYPEATA* (L.). Shoveller Duck.

151. *ANAS BOSCHAS* L. Wild Duck.

152. *ANAS STREPERA*, L. Gadwall.

153. *ANAS ACUTA*, L. Pintail.

154. *ANAS CRECCA*, L. Teal.

155. *FULIGULA FERINA* (L.). Pochard.

These six species of Duck are all more or less abundant on the Nile, in flocks; and we shot some of each, in one or the other of my voyages up the river. I should say that *Fuligula ferina* is the most abundant, and *Anas strepera* the most rare.

156. *PODICEPS*, sp. indet.

I once saw a Grebe swimming in the Nile close to our boat; from its size I should say it was *P. cristatus*.

157. *PHALACROCORAX CARBO* (L.). Common Cormorant.

Cormorants are abundant wherever the Nile is overhung by abrupt cliffs, in which they roost, and, I suspect, breed.

158. *PELECANUS ONOCROTALUS*, L. Pelican.

I found Pelicans much less plentiful on my second voyage up the Nile than on my first. This may have been owing either to the ten years' persecution they had in the meantime undergone, or to the fact that the second voyage was two months later in the season than the first.

159. *LARUS FUSCESCENS*, Liechtenstein.

I have seen this Gull flying about the harbour of Alexandria. It is apparently intermediate between *Larus fuscus*, and *Larus argentatus*, as it resembles the former in having the legs and feet yellow, while the grey of the mantle is not much darker than in *L. argentatus*. It is the common Gull of the Bosphorus. There is a Gull of this species now alive in the Gardens of the London Zoological Society; until lately it was named *Larus michahellesi*; the label is now altered correctly.

160. *LARUS AUDOUINI*, Payraudeau. Audouin's Gull.

To the best of my belief, I saw this Gull during my first voyage up the Nile.

161. *GELASTES TENUIROSTRIS* (Temminck). Slender-billed Gull.

A specimen of this Gull was shot by one of our party out of a small flock, near Kench in Upper Egypt. This species differs from the other small Gulls with red bills and legs in never, at any time of the year, assuming a black head. It is not well-named *Slender-billed Gull*, as its bill is certainly stouter and stronger than that of the common *L. ridibundus*. It is figured by Bonaparte (Icon. Faun. Ital.), also by Dr. Bree (B. Eur. iv. p. 98).

162. *CHROICOCEPHALUS RIDIBUNDUS* (L.). Black-headed Gull.

The most common species of Gull on the Nile in March.

163. *CHROICOCEPHALUS MELANOCEPHALUS*, Natterer. Natterer's Gull.

I saw this Gull flying about the harbour of Alexandria in April. It is easily distinguished, even on the wing, from *C. ridibundus*, by its deep black head and its pure white wings untipped with black.

164. *STERNA CASPIA*, Pallas. Caspian Tern.

I saw several of these fine Terns flying over a lake near Damietta.

165. *STERNA VELOX*, Rüppell. Swift Tern.

I bought some Tern's eggs at Damietta, that had been taken

near that town: these have every appearance of belonging to this species; they are decidedly larger than the eggs of *S. cantiaca*.

166. *STERNA CANTIACA*, Gmelin. Sandwich Tern.

Seen near Damietta.

167. *STERNA ANGLICA*, Montagu. Gull-billed Tern.

The most common species of Tern in the interior of Egypt, frequenting marshy places.

168. *HYDROCHELIDON FISSIPES* (L.). Black Tern.

Seen near Damietta in April.

III.—On the Ornithology of Palestine. Part V.

By the Rev. H. B. TRISTRAM, M.A., F.L.S., C.M.Z.S.

(Plate I.)

[Continued from 'The Ibis' for 1866, page 292.]

No families of birds are more largely represented in Palestine than the Warblers, the *Sylviinæ* and *Luscininæ*, including especially the *Saxicolinæ*, almost as varied and as perplexing as the Larks. If we cast our eye down the catalogue, we find sixty-one species of the Sylviads enumerated,—a list which we can hardly believe to be nearly complete; for the occurrence of many of the species we met with is a pretty sure indication of the presence, occasional at least, of many others. It cannot be assumed that *Luscinia philomela*, for instance, will not be found, or that *Salicaria aquatica*, *Locustella naevia*, and other species of wide range are not represented. I do not know of a more admirable post of observation for the British ornithologist who wishes to study the habits of the Warblers in our lists, actual or reputed, than the Holy Land. He will have the double advantage of familiar association during the winter months with nearly all our summer migrants; while in spring he may watch from day to day the nidification of all those species which either an erratic spirit of ornithic adventure, or the ingenuity of dealers have added to our array of occasional visitants.